

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th February 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Ghosak"	Khulna ...	560	28th January 1895.	
Fortnightly.					
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura ...	450		
3	"Kasipur Nivási"	Kasipur, Barisál ...	300		
4	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria ...	800		
Tri-monthly.					
5	"Abodh-Bodhini"	Calcutta ...	677	28th ditto.	
Weekly.					
6	"Bagura Darpan"	Bogra ...	.....	8th February 1895.
7	"Banganivási"	Calcutta ...	8,000	8th ditto.	
8	"Bangavási"	Ditto ...	20,000	9th ditto.	
9	"Burdwán Sanjívani"	Burdwan ...	350	5th ditto.	
10	"Chárumihir"	Mymensingh ...	.....	5th ditto.
11	"Chinsura Vártávaha"	Chinsura ...	500		
12	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	2,400		
13	"Darsak"	Chinsura ...	.....	10th ditto.
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	853	8th ditto.	
15	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	295	7th ditto.	
16	"Hitavádi"	Calcutta ...	5,810	8th ditto.	
17	"Jnándáyiká"	Ditto ...	.....	
18	"Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....	1st ditto.
19	"Murshidabad Hitaishi"	Murshidabad ...	732	6th ditto.	
20	"Murshidábád Pratimúdhí"	Berhampore ...	200	8th ditto.	
21	"Pratikár"	Ditto ...	603		
22	"Rangpur Dikprakásh"	Kakinia, Rangpur ...	170		
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	800-1,000	6th ditto.	
24	"Samaya"	Ditto ...	4,000	8th ditto.	
25	"Sanjívani"	Ditto ...	4,000	9th ditto.	
26	"Sansódhini"	Chittagong ...	.....	
27	"Sáraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	500	9th ditto.	
28	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta ...	800	11th ditto.	
29	"Sudhákár"	Ditto ...	2,000	8th ditto.	
30	"Vikrampur"	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	380	7th ditto.	
Daily.					
31	"Bangá Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Calcutta ...	400	8th, 9th and 11th to 13th February 1895.	
32	"Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandrika"	Ditto ...	500	10th to 14th February 1895.	
33	"Samvád Prabhákár"	Ditto ...	1,150	9th and 11th to 14th February 1895.	
34	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300		
35	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto ...	3,000	7th to 9th and 11th to 14th February 1895.	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
36	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	500-600	11th February 1895.	
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
37	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	500		
38	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másiik Samáchár Patriká"	Darjeeling ...	600		
Weekly.					
39	"Aryavarta"	Dinapore ...	750	9th ditto.	
40	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	2,500	7th ditto.	
41	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto ...	10,000	11th ditto.	
42	"Uchit Vaktá"	Ditto ...	.....	
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
43	"Hublul Mateen"	Calcutta ...	.....	

No.	Names of newspapers.			Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.							
<i>Weekly.</i>							
44	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch"	...	...	Bankipore	...	800	7th February 1895.
45	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	...	...	Calcutta	...	300	
46	"Gaya Punch"	...	...	Gaya	...	.....	7th ditto.
47	"General and Gauhariyasi"	...	...	Calcutta	...	410	
48	"Mehre Monawar"	...	...	Muzaffarpur	...	160	
URIYA.							
<i>Monthly.</i>							
49	"Asha"	...	...	Cuttack	...	80	
50	"Pradip"	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
51	"Samyabadi"	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
52	"Shikshabandhu"	...	...	Ditto	...	.....
53	"Utkalprabhá"	...	...	Mayurbhunj	...	3	
<i>Weekly.</i>							
54	"Dipaka"	...	...	Cuttack	...	.....	3rd and 10th January 1895. 2nd and 9th ditto. 5th and 12th ditto.
55	"Samvad Váhika"	...	...	Balasore	...	203	
56	"Uriya and Navasamvád"	...	...	Ditto	...	300	
57	"Utkal Dípiká"	...	...	Cuttack	...	450	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.							
BENGALI.							
<i>Fortnightly.</i>							
58	"Paridarshak"	...	...	Sylhet	...	480	} For the first fortnight of Magh, 1301 B.S.
59	"Srihattavási"	...	...	Ditto	...	.....

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 7th February says that according to the Constantinople paper, *Akhtar*, the real fact about the rumoured Armenian outrages is that the Armenian residents of Tálúráh, who are notorious for their plundering and way-laying habits, having formed themselves into a gang for the purpose of carrying on their trade in the vicinity of Tálúráh, the Sultan despatched a regiment to chastise them, and had them put down. The Commission will probably bring no other facts to light.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI,
Feb. 7th, 1895.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 28th January complains of the prevalence of theft in the quarter of the town of Barisal which is situated near Alikonda, and regrets that its prayer for the opening of a police-station at the latter place has been refused. On the night of the 3rd January last, several thefts were committed in the town. The authorities should look to the matter.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 28th, 1895.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th February says that though the 8th Bengal Cavalry has been transferred to Allahabad, the regiment which has taken its place at Mahestala is giving proof of inclination to walk in the footsteps of its predecessor. For the new regiment, too, is gradually taking to grass-cutting oppression. Among the grass-cutters of this regiment there are some men of the old regiment, and they are acting as the leaders. Already, one day, they wanted to enter into Babu Lakshman Chandra Banerji's garden for the purpose of cutting grass, but were baffled in their attempt. Another day, they threw down the post-box at Banerji's hat. On Tuesday, the 5th February last, a grass-cutter of the old regiment took some betels by force from a betel-seller near the Mahestala post-office, and went away only when some school-boys gathered at the place. It was hoped that the authorities would take proper action on the report submitted by the late jamadar of the Mahestala thana, but nothing has yet been done in that direction. Considering that it is not easy to identify the oppressors, who cannot therefore be brought to justice in the law courts, who is to protect the people from their high-handed conduct if Government or the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas does not protect them? The practice of deputing a police officer to accompany the grass-cutters has also been discontinued. Will the authorities take no steps to check the oppressions until a riot takes place? The military authorities should by this time have heard of these oppressions; but it is idle to expect any help from them. They will come forward to certify to the character of their men when they are accused in a law court. It is probable that the acquittal of Himmat Singh by the High Court has induced the men to commit increased oppressions.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

4. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th February has the following regarding the employment of natives in the higher ranks of the police service:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 12th, 1895.

The Government of India has rejected the prayer of the Indian Association to allow natives of Bengal to appear at the examination to be held here for the recruitment of the higher ranks of the police service. It is of opinion that in a country like India, which is inhabited by different races of men, professing different religions, none but Europeans can keep the police under control. Now, does it think that armed policemen will rise in rebellion if a Bengali Superintendent is put over their heads? The writer is unable to see how an argument of this nature can be put forth by the Government of Lord Elgin. The Commander-in-Chief said that the appointment of natives to commands in the army would make it difficult for the authorities to protect the Empire in times of trouble, and in refusing the Association's demand, the Government of India should have taken its stand on a similar argument. Regarding the Association's contention that natives possess greater detective ability than Europeans, the Government of India replies by saying that, as District Superintendents of Police are not required to detect

criminals, detective ability is not a necessary qualification in their case. Strange argument this! Will the entire duty of District Superintendents then consist in preventing disaffection among the members of the police force? With the object of pleasing natives Government has been pleased to provide for the appointment of two native Inspectors as Assistant Superintendents every third year, and surely this large concession ought to satisfy them. But after all, has it been proper for the authorities to take the people to be such fools that they will be satisfied with this make-belief of a concession? If the time for Bengalis to exercise control over the police has not come yet, it will never come.

(b) — *Working of the Courts.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 5th, 1895.

5. The *Charu Mihir* of the 5th February refers to the papers relating to the case of Mr. Bell, which have been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and remarks as follows:—

The Government's treatment of the case of Mr. Beatson Bell.

It seems from these papers that the Government of India disapproved of the action of the Bengal Government in giving promotion to Satis Babu, and it would have been well if that action had been disallowed altogether. In its letter to the Government of India, dealing with the case of Mr. Bell, the Government of Bengal says that it has secretly rebuked that officer. But as the nature of the rebuke administered is nowhere mentioned in the papers, the writer is unable to say whether it will have the effect of correcting Mr. Bell. Again, he is unable to see the force of the Lieutenant-Governor's argument as conveyed in the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's reply to the interpellation in the Bengal Council, that as the party assaulted sought redress in a court of law, he did not think it necessary to punish that officer for his hot-headedness. It appears from the published correspondence that all the papers relating to this case have not been made public. The Government letter, for instance, in answer to which Mr. Bell sent his explanation, and Mr. Bell's syce's deposition, have not been published, and the writer does not see why. Again, the public will not be wrong if they conclude from the Government letter of the 14th September 1894, addressed to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, that the Lieutenant-Governor, without taking an explanation from Satis Babu or getting him examined by a medical man, assumed that he was suffering from a brain disease. Verily this is a very nice way of diagnosing disease and finding a remedy for it.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 5th, 1895.

6. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 5th February had concluded from the Chief Secretary's reply to the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji's question about Mr. Bell's

Mr. Beatson Bell.

case, that no punishment of any sort had been inflicted on that officer, but it was now clear to the writer from the *Calcutta Gazette* that the Lieutenant-Governor strongly rebuked Mr. Bell for his hot headedness. His Honour did well by rebuking him, but why was the fact of the rebuke kept secret so long?

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 6th, 1895.

7. The *Sahachar* of the 6th February refers to the interpellation in the Bengal Council on the case of Mr. Beatson Bell, and makes the following remarks:—

The case of Mr. Bell.

From what the writer heard from one or two of Mr. Bell's amla regarding the assault on Keshab, he was led to believe that Mr. Bell was a good man, and that he had committed the assault in a sudden fit of anger. But he now sees that Mr. Bell is not a good man at all, but a very proud and hot headed man. And supposing he is a good man, it is extremely doubtful whether a man who gave proof of so much hot-headedness in the Keshab Lal affair ought to be allowed to carry on the work of administering justice. The writer has no hesitation in saying that if a native officer had been guilty of the offence of which Mr. Bell is guilty, he would have been dismissed from the service of Government. By asking forgiveness of Keshab Lal, Mr. Bell has no doubt tried to appear before the public in the light of one who has expiated for his guilt, but it is the writer's belief that he never asked for forgiveness out of good motives. This is clear from the fact that there was no talk of asking for forgiveness or of settling the case before it was transferred by order of the High Court from the file of the Deputy Magistrate, Satis Chandra. It also appears from Government's reply to the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji's question in the Council, as well as from the official papers relating to Mr. Bell's case, that the

Lieutenant-Governor would in all probability have inflicted no punishment on Mr. Bell, even if no case had been brought against him in a court of law. His Honour has in a manner expressed himself to the effect that, if no case had been brought against Mr. Bell, he himself would have punished him, but that as a case was brought against him, there was no necessity for his interfering in the matter. This means that in His Honour's opinion, people ought not to seek redress in the law court against acts of oppression committed on them by the members of the Civil Service who are subordinate to him. A country must fare badly when its ruler comes to entertain an opinion so dangerous as this. By promoting Mr. Bell and increasing his powers, the Lieutenant-Governor has deliberately set public opinion at naught. He has also promoted the Deputy Magistrate Satis Chandra, although he himself admitted that the former was suffering from a diseased brain. The Government of India has found fault with this act of His Honour. Mr. Bell admitted before his pleader that the Lieutenant-Governor had promised him his support. And if His Honour considers the matter coolly, he will himself see that the promise of support he gave was a promise given in a spirit of *daladali* which looks so bad in a ruler of Bengal. By upholding His Honour's decision in regard to the punishments, the Government of India has acted properly.

But Mr. Bell has again figured in an assault case, and this time the victim is not a poor muharrir, but a Deputy Magistrate. At Tippera, he has, without any provocation, broken the bones of a Deputy Magistrate, and will Sir Charles Elliott again say that the case does not call for any punishment?

8. The same paper says that as Mr. Justice Amir Ali contemplates going away on leave, the question who should succeed him is agitating the public mind. The mercantile community have suggested the appointment of an English Barrister in his place, urging as their reason that many of their cases have long remained undisposed of. But the writer is of opinion that as the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Macpherson and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale can take up mercantile cases, there will be no necessity for appointing a European Barrister in place of Mr. Justice Amir Ali, and the temporary vacancy should be filled up by appointing Dr. Rasbihari Ghose to it.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 6th, 1895.

9. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 7th February has no doubt that when Mr. Justice Amir Ali will go on leave numerous Hindu and English candidates for the post will come forward. But it is hoped that on the ground on which Mr. Amir Ali has been given a seat on the High Court Bench, his *locum tenens* too will be chosen from among the Muhammadan candidates. The compulsory retirement of Justice Mahmud, and the appointment of a Bengali Hindu in his place, lead us to suspect that the Calcutta High Court, too, may, after Mr. Amir Ali's tenure of office, dispense altogether with the services of a Muhammadan Judge. It was Lord Lansdowne who furnished a Muhammadan with a seat on the Calcutta High Court Bench, but his policy has vanished with him.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 7th, 1895.

It remains for us to see what Lord Elgin does in the matter of appointing Mr. Amir Ali's *locum tenens*. If Government appoints a Musalman in Mr. Amir Ali's place, the claims of the Hon'ble Muhammad Yusaf Khan Bahadur should be taken into consideration.

10. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th February has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor in the Bell affair. It is doubtful whether even one's whole lifetime will suffice for a full recital of the Lieutenant-Governor's doings. We have said much about the Lieutenant-Governor and his just deeds. Sir Charles Elliott is known alike to the young and to the old in this province, and it is no exaggeration to say that his name is, in a manner, a household word in Bengal.

SULABH DAINIK
Feb. 7th, 1895.

Sir Charles Elliott remains in power for a term of five years only. We would therefore like to ask him "Why, O master, dressed in a short-lived authority as you are, should you be so overbearing? Or do you think it better to act out the play you have set your heart upon before your brief term of authority expires?"

"We will this day consider the sense of justice you have shown in your decision of the Khulna assault case. You are the ruler of 70 millions of people, and the master of Mr. Bell. But this is the first time in the world's history

that we see a master advocating the cause of his servant. It is not more ridiculous to see a Judge advocate the cause of the accused from the Bench than to see the Lieutenant-Governor advocate the cause of his servant, Mr. Bell. Is this, we ask, conduct befitting either a ruler or an Englishman?

You say that the exposure and harassment which Mr. Bell has already undergone and the compensation of Rs. 350 which he has had to pay to Kesav Lal are sufficient punishment for the offence which he committed. But the Government of India thinks differently. That Government finds much to blame in Mr. Bell's conduct. According to that Government, Mr. Bell should have sent an apology to Kesav Lal's master as soon as he recovered his temper. Mr. Bell, however, did not, as a matter of fact, think of making an apology till seven days had elapsed from the date of the assault. The Viceroy and the public consider Mr. Bell much to blame. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, will not change his opinion about Mr. Bell's conduct, let one say against that officer what one will.

Again, is Rs. 350, we ask, a sufficient compensation for an assault on a gentleman? The Lieutenant-Governor seems to be of opinion that a native cannot rightly expect any compensation from an Englishman who beats him, and the compensation paid by Mr. Bell is, therefore, as it were, an alms bestowed upon Kesav Lal. But the expenditure which Kesav Lal has had to undergo in instituting suits and making motions in different law-courts from the Deputy Magistrate's Court up to the High Court must amount to very much more than that sum.

Again, does the Lieutenant-Governor think that Kesav Lal has been honoured by the caning he received from Mr. Bell that he insists so much upon the exposure and harassment which Mr. Bell has had to undergo? Does he then think that the cane of an English civilian must produce a sensation of sweetness as that of nectar over the body of the native who may be struck with it, and that death at the hand of an Englishman entitles a native to the joys of heaven? If, instead of tamely submitting to be caned, Kesav Lal had had the courage to give Mr. Bell a taste of his fist or cudgel, the Lieutenant-Governor would have in all probability hanged him as a murderer. The Lieutenant-Governor's statements are such as to strike one dumb with astonishment. We could not even dream that it was possible for a man to say about another what the Lieutenant-Governor has said about Mr. Bell. He has not eyes to see the humiliation of the caned Kesav Lal in the eyes of his countrymen, his relatives, and his master's tenants, but he is deeply pained to see references to Mr. Bell's assault in the press.

It would seem that there is no one above the Lieutenant-Governor either in England or in India. The Viceroy has condemned Mr. Bell's conduct. The Lieutenant-Governor nevertheless shelters Mr. Bell under his protecting wings. Is the Viceroy then unable to insist upon the punishment of Mr. Bell? How is it, again, that no member of Parliament has yet asked any question about the Lieutenant-Governor's decision in this Bell affair? The Lieutenant-Governor has also disregarded the request of the High Court that Mr. Bell should be punished. This is a departure from the practice that Government has hitherto followed of rewarding and punishing judicial officers according to the recommendation of the High Court.

We are not, however, very sorry at what the Lieutenant-Governor has done. More than four years' suffering has made us callous, and we shall be well able to bear what may happen during the few remaining months. We are only anxious to see what the Lieutenant-Governor does on the eve of his departure.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1895,

11. The *Sudhakar* of the 8th February refers to the sentence of imprisonment passed by Mr. A. K. Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Bongong, upon certain sellers at a *hât* (see W. R. of 9th February 1895, paragraph 10), and remarks as follows:—

We wish the extermination of the whole race of such Deputy Magistrates, no matter whether they are natives or Europeans. We have no sympathy with such men. A man who can thus oppress poor people is a disgrace to the Bench. It is dangerous to leave power in the hands of those who are not brought to their senses even by their censure by superior officers. Why were

the *mukhtarnamas* presented by the poor *hât* men rejected? If the ground of rejection was that the day was a Sunday, how were they tried and punished on that day? They were not informed of the charge against them, and difficulties were thrown in the way of their obtaining a copy of the decision. We hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will take steps to cool the head of this Deputy Magistrate.

12. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 8th February has the following:—

SULABH DAINIK
Feb. 8th, 1895.

The Bengal Government in the Khulna case.

In reply to Babu Surendranath Banerji's question, Mr. Cotton said that Government did not interfere in the Khulna case because the complainant had sought redress in a law court. But what redress did Government give to the Musalman who some time ago submitted a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor against a Magistrate? The fact is that the people have long found out Sir Charles Elliott's Government, and know what value to attach to the reply which has been given by the Chief Secretary. They have come firmly to believe that Sir Charles Elliott has formed a combination with the civilians to harass the people of the country. But would it not have been better for His Honour, considering that his term of office is drawing to a close, to act in a more charitable spirit now? Even the most hardened atheist takes the name of God when life is about to expire.

13. Referring to the case of Miss Joyce of Tikari, communicated to the

SULABH DAINIK.

The District Judge of Gaya in the case of Miss Joyce of Tikari.

Amrita Bazar Patrika by a correspondent, the same paper says that it must be very strange if Mr. Holmwood, the District Judge, has actually called for the Munsif's explanation. No judicial officer would be able to summon witnesses if he were to determine beforehand whether the evidence of any particular witness would be required or not. The writer cannot also say under what law Miss Joyce could claim to be examined by commission, considering that she is not a *pardanishin* lady, was not laid up in bed, and was not engaged in any public duty which might suffer by her absence. Again, there was nothing wrong in the Munsif's issuing the summons in Urdu, that being the Court language in Bihar.

14. In reference to the Khulna case, the *Banganivasi* of the 8th February writes as follows:—

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

Sir Charles Elliott's defence of Mr. Beatson Bell.

What was the offence for which Keshav Lal Mitra was beaten by Mr. Beatson Bell? Mr. Bell had ridden a long distance, and was thirsty; what was that to anybody else? Does anybody care for those millions of Her Majesty's subjects who do not get food when they are hungry and water when they are suffering from thirst? The man who was bound to supply provisions for Mr. Bell was not present. Keshav Lal was only his muharrir, and was not responsible for their supply. Nevertheless, he sent for milk when Mr. Bell asked for it. And this was the offence for which he was struck with a cane, and that by an officer whose duty it is to protect the weak and do justice! But everything could have been borne in silence if Sir Charles Elliott, the ruler of Bengal, had not taken it upon himself to defend Mr. Bell's conduct. His Honour defends Mr. Bell on the following grounds:—

- (1) Mr. Bell received extreme provocation and lost his temper.
- (2) He struck under such provocation.
- (3) He struck with a small cane.
- (4) He has paid to Keshav Lal Rs. 350 as compensation for damages.
- (5) Mr. Bell is an excellent officer, and this single act is opposed to the whole tenor of his life and character.

Let us now examine these grounds of defence:—

- (1) Sir Charles says Mr. Bell received provocation; but the Government of India states it as its opinion that on the occasion in question there was no such provocation. Whom, then, should one believe, Sir Charles Elliott or the Government of India?
- (2) If Keshav Lal did not provoke Mr. Bell, how can he be called an offender? How can then the Lieutenant-Governor say that Mr. Bell "struck the offender"?

(3) According to the Lieutenant-Governor, Keshavlal was struck "with a small cane which could not do any serious injury." But Mr. Bell himself says that "the cane being small and juicy, probably did more harm than I intended." What does the Lieutenant-Governor say to this?

(4) Was Rs. 350 sufficient compensation, considering that Keshav Lal had to take his case to the High Court, and also incurred some expenditure at the Alipore Court? Sir Charles Elliott has no knowledge of the actual cost of law suits, or he would not have made such a statement.

(5) How can Mr. Bell's conduct at Khulna be characterised as "a single act opposed to the whole tenor of his life and character," when it is remembered how unlawfully he acted at Serajganj in collecting subscriptions for the Lady Dufferin Fund, and how he conducted himself lately at Comilla?

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

15. The *Bangavasi* of the 9th February says that it is true, as the Viceroy has put it, that if Mr. Bell had apologised to the master of Keshav Lal after beating the latter,

nothing more would have been heard of the matter. But the Anglo-Indians who are proud of belonging to the dominant race cannot bring themselves to apologise to a native, much less an Englishman like Mr. Bell, who is a civilian, and a District Officer in addition. And where is the Englishman who will humiliate himself in this way when an Englishman is in no way a sufferer for not making an apology to the native he injures?

DARSAK,
Feb. 10th, 1895.

16. The *Darsak* of the 10th February cannot see its way to oppose the opinion expressed by the public that the Government of Bengal's defence of Mr. Beatson Bell, and its attempt to throw the entire burden of the

Khulna case on the complainant, Keshav Lal, are perfectly arbitrary. Mr. Bell was undoubtedly very thirsty, but Keshav Lal had sent for milk, which could not be obtained very early, as cows in the mufassal, are, as a rule, milked rather late. Was it right then for Mr. Bell to lose his temper so suddenly? But admitting that a man in his circumstances might have been expected to lose his temper, was it not Mr. Bell's plain duty to apologise to Keshav Lal or his master after he cooled down? There was not, in fact, throughout the whole affair, a single fact or circumstance to urge in favour of Mr. Bell. Not content with behaving towards Keshav Lal as he did, in his explanation to the Bengal Government, he ascribed a political motive for the agitation that was commenced against him.

The Government of India has blamed Mr. Bell. In its despatch to the Secretary of State, it distinctly says that "it was Mr. Bell's plain duty, when he recovered his temper, to have sent for the zamindar and expressed to him his regret for what had occurred. Had he followed this course he might probably have heard nothing further about the matter."

The Government of Bengal has attempted to give Mr. Bell too much credit for paying Keshav Lal Rs. 350. But so far as the writer can see, no credit is due to Mr. Bell, for he did not pay the amount spontaneously, but after action had been taken against him in the law Court, and then only as costs of the legal proceedings. The Bengal Government says that, except in the Khulna affair, Mr. Bell has never been guilty of improper conduct. But what about the Sirajganj affair? Has the Lieutenant-Governor so soon forgotten that?

The Government of India is to be praised for its attitude in this matter. While admitting Mr. Bell's guilt, it has very properly, in consideration of the prestige of the officer concerned and of the Local Government, deemed it unnecessary to inflict any further punishment on the offender. But it is necessary that the Government of India should give a private warning to the Government of Bengal, for without it official high-handedness will not cease.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 11th, 1895.

17. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 11th February has the following in connection with the case of Mr. Beatson Bell:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's treatment of the case of Mr. Bell.

The Government of India is not disposed to take the lenient view of Mr. Bell's case which the Lieutenant-Governor has

taken. Accordingly it has not accepted His Honour's advocacy of that officer, and it finds fault with his decision as to the gravity of the offence committed by the latter. Thus, in consequence of 'Dear Mr. Bell,' the Lieutenant-Governor has met with a mild rebuke at the hands of the Supreme Government. His Honour's action in this matter has displeased and pained even the *Indian Daily News*. According to that paper the Lieutenant-Governor has promoted Satis Chandra to spite the native press which attacked that officer, and this is true, only that it does not contain the whole truth. His Honour overlooked the offence of both Mr. Bell and Babu Satis Chandra, not only to spite the native press but also to spite the High Court. And the consequence is that he now stands discredited with the Supreme Government. He himself is to blame first. Though he has grown old, he is not yet free from *zid*, anger, and other feelings which are the common faults of youth.

(d)—Education.

18. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 8th February writes as follows regarding "Nutan Path" by Babu Chandra Nath Bose, in continuation of the criticism of the book noticed in paragraph 14 of the Report on Native Papers of the 2nd February 1895:—

SAMAY,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

"VERTEBRATE ANIMALS."

(Continued from the *Samay* of the 25th January 1895.)

"There is bone (or there are bones) in the bodies of certain animals like the man, the cow, the horse, the snake, the bird, the fish, &c. Of this or these, the column or stick composed of certain pieces of bone, which stretches from the neck to the hinder part through the middle of their back, is called the spinal column or the backbone." Now, it is not clear what is meant by the expression "of this or these" in this extract. The nearest noun corresponding to "this or these" is the word "bone" in the preceding sentence. The inaccuracy could have been avoided if the author had written "is a number of bones" instead of "is bone." The word "their" in "their back" is placed at a great distance from the nouns for which it is used. The writing is certainly wanting in perspicuity. Again, the words "from the neck to the hinder part" are not clear. The expression "the hind part of the body" means the whole of the back. Therefore, "from the neck to the hinder part" would mean from the neck to the whole of the back, which, of course, conveys no meaning whatever. What Babu Chandra Nath means by "the hinder part" is probably the lower extremity of the spinal column. Again, the author speaks of "the column or stick composed of certain pieces of bone." But is the spinal column really something like a stick? And is the spine in the man, cow, snake, fish, &c., like a stick? If not, Babu Chandra Nath must be doubtless regarded as a man who completely lacks the faculty of perceiving similarities.

"মাংস নরম বলিয়া, মেৰুদণ্ড প্রভৃতি অস্থি থাকিলে, শরীরের বাধুনি যেমন শক্ত হয়, মেৰুদণ্ড প্রভৃতি না থাকিলে তেমন হয় না।" (Flesh being soft, if there were not in the body bones like the backbone, &c., its build would not be so strong as it is owing to the existence in it of such bones.) Now, what is the meaning of বলিয়া (being) in this sentence? বলিয়া usually indicates cause:—"তিনি রোগী বলিয়া শীর্ণ।" (He being sickly is emaciated.) "তিনি আমার বাড়ীতে আসেন বলিয়া আমি তাঁহার বাড়ীতে যাই।" (It is because he comes to my house that I go to his). In all these cases, the preceding and the succeeding clause stand, in the relation of cause and effect. But in the sentence "flesh being soft, &c.," the softness of flesh is not a cause of the strength of the body. Why did the author then use the word বলিয়া in this connection?

"অস্থি থাকিলে বাধুনি শক্ত হয়।" Here the use of থাকিলে is not correct, "কেবল কাদা দিয়া পুতুল গড়িলে পুতুল শক্ত হয় না।" What is the meaning of শক্ত here? Hard or not brittle? Why is the word "পুতুল" used twice in the same sentence? "অলপাঘাতেই ভাঙ্গিয়া যায়" would have been better and more correct than "সহজেই ভাঙ্গিয়া যায়"

“কিন্তু কাটি দিয়া হাত পা ও শিরদাঁড়া গড়িয়া তাহার উপর মাটি দিলে পুতুল শক্ত হয়।” Here too the word শক্ত is not correctly used. Again, what is the antecedent of তাহার? It is probably some word which must be inserted after গড়িয়া. The reader will see how faulty the composition is. “সেই জন্য যে সকল প্রাণীর মেকদণ্ড আছে, তাহারা যেমন শক্ত ও বলশালী হয়।” How to explain “সেই জন্য” in this sentence? Do not শক্ত and বলশালী mean one and the same thing? Possibly Babu Chandra Nath means “hard” by শক্ত. If he does, he ought to compile a dictionary giving to the words of the language his own fancied meanings.

(To be continued.)

SAMAY,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

The postponement of the dates for the holding of the University Examinations.

19. The *Samay* of the 8th February hopes that, having regard to the prevalence of small-pox in the town, the Syndicate of the Calcutta University will grant the prayer of the candidates for the Entrance and other examinations for the postponement for three weeks of the dates which have been fixed for the holding of those examinations.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

Abalakanta Sen's book trade in a new form.

20. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 8th February says that Babu Abalakanta Sen, whose meaning books have been proscribed by the Education Department has hit upon a new method of selling those books. This will appear from his advertisement headed “A proposal,” and the following is a translation of the advertisement:—

“I have ceased to write meaning books. So, I ask forgiveness of those who, out of their love for me, ask me to send meaning books written by myself.

“At the present day, meaning books are being written by everybody, by pandits, shop-keepers, agriculturists, and so forth. This pleases me instead of exciting my envy; for, thanks to teachers and pupils, I have made much money and I do not want more. But it pains me to see those injured for whose good I have spent so much of my life. Erroneous meaning books are as injurious to boys as poison. But it has now become difficult to discriminate between nectar and poison. I have seen some of the meaning books to text-books in literature selected for 1896. Most of these are being issued in parts and contain mistakes in every page. But I do not wish to excite anybody's anger by pointing out those mistakes, for by doing so in the past, I incurred many people's displeasure. Be that as it may, no more of useless talk.

“I find that the meaning books which have been written by Gopal Chandra Bandyopadhyaya, Head Pandit of the South Sripur Banga Vidyalaya, with the help of the *Garib Pustakalaya*, a book-shop which has the good of the poor at heart, and printed at the Sadhan Press, are completely free from errors, and likely to prove very useful to boys. Gopal Babu has sought my assistance in the circulation of his books and written to me saying—‘Dada, (elder brother) I want a little reputation and not money.....It is desirable to have your assistance in the matter of securing a circulation for my books, &c.....’

“This disinterestedness on the part of the author has proved a great advantage to boys. I see the *Garib Pustakalaya* has circulated notices of his books with boundless enthusiasm. However, I do not want to say more on the subject, nor do I ask any one to place full confidence in what I say. It is my request that people should purchase meaning books after examining them. So, the teacher or the pupil of every school in the East Bengal and Rajshahi Circles should write to me for one copy of each of the meaning books to *Sita* and *Kabigatha*, and the teacher or the pupil of every school in the Presidency and Burdwan Circles for a copy of each of the meaning books to *Chhatrajivan* and the *Mitra Vilap*. Every pair of these meaning books costs Rs. 1-8, but sample copies can be had for Re. 1, while the postage and money-order fee will amount to annas 4. Thus value-payable packets containing these books will cost in all Re. 1 and annas 4. If approved after two days' perusal, the books should be kept; if disapproved they should be returned after that time. We will pay the cost of sending and taking them back, and neither teachers nor pupils will have to suffer the loss of even a pice on that account. But no one should take more than one pair of books as sample nor keep it for more than

two days if he means to return it. If returned, the books should be sent by certified book post, and I shall either send new books or return the money by money-order. But even if this arrangement appears suspicious to any one, let him send the books back by value-payable post, charging me Re. 1-4. Has anybody any objection to this proposal?

"Anybody wishing to take meaning books written by any other person should write a letter to him beforehand and take the books in the manner suggested. Everyone should take this advice of mine, for if he does so, he will have no fear of being cheated.

"Yours faithfully,
"SRI ABALAKANTA SEN."

The question now is, will not the object of the Government circular on the subject of Abalakanta's books be frustrated if the man is allowed to carry on his book trade in this way?

21. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 9th February has the following about Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyayratna:—
Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyayratna. Pandit Mahesa Chandra is truly a Mahamahopadhyaya. He is one of the best of Naiyayikas (logicians), and possesses a thorough knowledge of the Vedanta, the Sankhya, the Patanjali and the Mimamsa system of philosophy. To speak the truth, it is extremely difficult to find in Bengal another pandit so deeply versed in Hindu philosophy and who has studied Hindu rhetoric so thoroughly as Pandit Mahesa Chandra. He also possesses an intimate knowledge of grammar, *belles-lettres*, Smriti and other branches of Hindu learning. His dissertations on the subject of Hindu astronomy are very interesting and may be studied with profit by every body taking interest in that subject. By reason of his versatile genius and keen intellect, he has come to be regarded as an authority on different branches of Hindu learning. His powers of work and habits of industry are extraordinary, and he cannot remain without work for a moment. He is still in good health, and his retirement is consequently a matter of deep regret. The securing of a liberal grant on behalf of poor professors of Sanskrit and their pupils must be regarded as one of his great achievements. It is the writer's belief that by remaining in office for two years more, the Pandit could have done much more for the improvement of Sanskrit tols.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

Though the system under which the *tol* grants are made has been taken exception to in some quarters, there is no question about the usefulness and propriety of the grants themselves. The Pandit deserves thanks for the disinterested efforts which he made in order to secure them from Government. The Pandit willing, it is the wish of the country that he should be allowed to remain in office some time longer.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th February publishes three letters:—

Appointment of text-books for
High English schools.

The first, which is from an officer of the Education Department, is as follows:—

I have been pained to read the article on the appointment of text-books for Entrance schools by Dr. Martin and Babu Radhika Prasanna Mukharji, which appeared in the *Sanjivani* of the 12th January last. Such an article should not have appeared in a paper edited by a wise and upright man like the editor of this paper. Dr. Martin issued his list so long ago as the 19th July 1894, but you were silent about it, and you clamoured as soon as Radhika Babu published a similar list. Was this right or just?

Before accusing two Inspectors of Schools of a violation of the Government Resolution of 1883, you should have made enquiries as to the reason of their action. It was the Director of Public Instruction who, seeing the inconvenience which is caused to students requiring transfers from one school to another by reason of different schools having different sets of text-books for the same class, directed the circle inspectors to prescribe uniform lists of text-books for all Entrance schools within their respective jurisdictions, and Dr. Martin and Radhika Babu only carried out this instruction by publishing the lists referred to. It is true the Director's instructions were not published in the *Calcutta Gazette*; but it would not have taken one much trouble to ascertain that they existed.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

I have read with pleasure Babu Dwarka Nath Ganguli's letter in the *Sanjivani* (W. R. for 26th January, paragraph 21) defending Radhika Babu against the personal attacks contained in your article of the 12th January last. Radhika Babu would certainly have been to blame if he had appointed as text-books books written by himself and his relatives, which were unfit to be read by boys, or if he had given a monopoly to such books to the entire exclusion of good books written by others. But Radhika Babu cannot now be charged with conduct like this.

I am sorry to observe that the Hare Press has been unnecessarily dragged into the controversy. And this is not the first time that you have thus vented your displeasure against that Press. Conduct like this is enough to lead one to suppose that you do so from malice, because the Hare Press has outstripped both your own Press and the Brahmo Mission Press in the race for competition. I would have myself entertained such a belief if I had not known perfectly well that you were quite incapable of such mean feelings. It is not, however, in good taste that, instigated by some unsuccessful writer of school-books, you should thus be constantly abusing a native gentleman of position like Radhika Babu, and an excellent printing establishment like the Hare Press. You should yourself be ashamed to see how recklessly you abuse the latter. In the article referred to, you wrote as follows:—"Radhika Babu or his son has a printing Press, named the Hare Press, and if a list were made out of the books printed in this press which find a place in Radhika Babu's list, the public would come to know how Radhika Babu is making money by ruining the writers of books in his country." In his list for the Entrance schools, Radhika Babu has included sixty-four books in all, and of these the following only are printed in the Hare Press:—

- (1) The Poetical Class Book, No. II, by Radhika Babu.
- (2) *Svasthyaraksha*, by the same author.
- (3) *Bángálár Itihas* (History of Bengal) by Radhika Babu's brother, the late Babu Rajkrishna Mukharji.
- (4) The Lower English Reader, by Radhika Babu's son, Babu Panchanan Mukharji.
- (5) *Hitopadesa*, by Babu Ishan Chandra Ghosh, a friend of Panchanan Babu's.
- (6) *Charupáth*, Part II, by the late Babu Akshay Kumar Datta.
- (7) The Moral Book, by Babu Syama Charan Ganguli.
- (8) Arithmetic by Babu Bepin Vihari Gupta.

Will you kindly name another press where these books would have been better printed?

It is for you to judge whether books Nos. 6, 7 and 8 have been included in the list in virtue of their own merits, or simply because they were printed in the Hare Press.

You often say that Radhika Babu being the Secretary of the Text-Book Committee, no author gets his book passed by the Committee if it is not printed in the Hare Press. Now, a close examination of the lists published by the Text-Book Committee on the 8th July 1891, and 10th September 1892, respectively, shows that out of 748 books included in the two lists, only 42 were printed in the Hare Press, and of these 42, 10 have been written by Radhika Babu, his brother, or his son; 4 by his friend, Babu Kshetranath Bhattacharyya; 2 by Babu Satkari Datta, an uncle of the late Manager of the Hare Press; 2 by Babu Jagadbandhu Modak, uncle of a compositor in the same Press; 3 by Babus Hara Prasad Shastri and Chandra Nath Basu; and 3 by Babu Ishan Chandra, a friend of Panchanan Babu's; and the remaining 18 by other authors. Will you after this persist in saying that no books that are not printed in the Hare Press are approved by the Text-Book Committee?

The second, which is from a teacher in an aided Entrance school, is as follows:—

According to Babu Dwarka Nath Ganguli, Radhika Babu's *Svasthyaraksha* and Rajkrishna Babu's *Bángálár Itihas* have no equal in Bengal literature. It will be no wonder if opinion should differ in regard to these books. It may be asked if *Jadu Babu's Sarir Palan* is not a better book than Radhika Babu's *Svasthyaraksha* and Babu Priya Nath Mallik's *History of Bengal* is not a book better suited to boys of a tender age than Raj Krishna, Babu's work on the

same subject. As for the Lower English Reader, Babu Dwarkanath need only go through it once in order to see what it is worth. The correspondent knows that the Poetical Class Book No. I or No. II enjoys a monopoly in certain parts of the Presidency Circle. The book by Babu Dina Nath Sen which has been adopted by Radhika Babu is his spelling book. As for the charge of Radhika Babu having some interest in the Sanskrit Press Depository, Babu Dwarkanath would not have written what he wrote in Radhika Babu's defence if he had enquired into the special arrangement regarding commission which exists between the parties. There is, in fact, no denying that Radhika Babu is taking undue advantage of his position. There is no gainsaying the fact that in at least five of the books appointed for Entrance schools, Radhika Babu has an undoubted interest, and these five books are not the best of their kind. There will, of course, be an end of the matter if it is said that Radhika Babu's son and his son's or daughter's father-in-law are the only competent writers of school books in Bengal, and that the Hare Press is the only press where such books can be printed.

Again, the students of the third class are to read 180 pages of R. C. Dutt's History of the Indian People within an aggregate of 120 hours, making allowance for holidays. They will also have to go through 225 pages of Clarke's Geography in an aggregate of 80 hours only. Will not this be too heavy a task for boys of twelve, thirteen, or at most fourteen years of age? The students of the fourth class, who are generally boys of eleven or twelve, will have to read geometry and algebra, besides 120 pages of Longman's New Reader, Standard V, Rowe and Webb's English Grammar, half of Gangadhar's Helps to English Composition, 77 pages of R. C. Dutt's History, and 206 pages of Clarke's Geography. Did the Inspector calculate how many pages the boys would have to read every hour under this arrangement? Let Babu Dwarkanath himself say whether Radhika Babu has not imposed too heavy a burden on the boys. It is the schoolmasters in the mufassal who thoroughly know what the capacities of the mufassal boys are that realise more clearly than anybody else the severity of the task which has been imposed upon the latter.

The third, which is from another teacher in a mufassal school, is as follows:—

The list which has been published by Dr. Martin is only a model list, and he does not say that the Entrance schools in his circle must adopt no books which are not mentioned in it. Besides there is much to learn in Dr. Martin's list. But how many native Inspectors are disinterested enough to act in this way? It is really a shame how eagerly the present native Inspectors and their subordinates seek to introduce books written by themselves into schools. Lately, a Deputy Inspector of Pabna was punished by Dr. Martin for having introduced certain changes within his jurisdiction. And the following will show the doings of certain inspecting officers in East Bengal:—

- (1) An inspecting officer in East Bengal has written a spelling book. The first edition of that book having been rejected by the Central Text-Book Committee, a second edition has since been issued. But how is it that the book has found entrance into every school in East Bengal?
- (2) Was not this book rejected by the Director of Public Instruction in Assam?
- (3) A certain officer has written a book on mental arithmetic, the perusal of which reminds one of Byron's remarks on Wordsworth's *Idiot Boy*. But that does not matter. The book has been appointed as a text-book for all lower examinations in East Bengal, and will certainly continue to be so appointed so long as its author lives. The correspondent was once present at an examination in this book, but found to his surprise that only one or two per cent. of the boys were able to answer questions from it. And yet the boys must be compelled to read it.
- (4) Those officers of the Education Department, however, who carry on a trade in book-making pay no income-tax on the proceeds of the sale of their books. Will Government make an enquiry into this point?

It was expected that the Inspector of the Eastern Circle, too, would issue a list similar to that published by Radhika Babu. But he has not yet done so. The Inspectors may appoint what text-books they like for the Government schools, but why should they interfere in this manner with aided schools? Lately Babu Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of the Eastern Circle, wrote to the authorities of a high school requesting them not to make any delay in submitting, for his approval, the list of text-books selected by them for their school. How such an order can be issued in the face of the rules published in the *Calcutta Gazette* for the guidance of the aided schools is what passes one's comprehension. The Inspectors cannot exercise the power which they are so anxious to exercise in regard to the appointment of text-books for aided schools unless the existing rules on the subject are amended. The Director of Public Instruction did not give this power to the Inspectors, probably because he knew that it would be abused.

On these letters the editor remarks as follows:—

The first correspondent asks why we were silent when Dr. Martin issued his list. The reason is that we did not, as a matter of fact, know that such a list had been issued.

From what the third correspondent says, it is clear that Dr. Martin's list is intended to serve only as a model, and teachers are not bound to adopt every book mentioned in it. However, we know nothing personally about the matter, beyond this, that no one has yet been able to prove that Dr. Martin has a personal interest in any book appointed by him. The charges that have been insinuated against him are based on mere suspicion, while the case is quite different as regards Radhika Babu, whose personal interest is certainly involved in the list he has issued. It is true Dr. Martin has included in his list books published by English book-sellers; but is it not a fact that, besides a few books on history, geography and similar subjects, books written or compiled by Englishmen are by far the best books of their kind? But, though on this ground, Dr. Martin's list may be superior to Radhika Babu's, we condemn the very principle and practice of issuing such lists.

For, there is no reason why teachers should be robbed of their freedom in the selection of text-books. It is also necessary that Inspectors and their subordinate officers should abstain from carrying on a trade in book-making, because there cannot be, otherwise, strict impartiality in the selection of text-books and authors, and the cause of literature must suffer. It is not, therefore, necessary to see whether any particular books written by any inspecting officers are good or bad.

We know that the Bengal Government Resolution, leaving the selection of text-books for high schools in the hands of the school authorities, has not been withdrawn. One, therefore, fails to understand under what authority the Director of Public Instruction has issued an order contrary to the spirit of the resolution. If such an order has actually been secretly issued, how are the public to know about it? The reason assigned by the first correspondent for the issue of such an order is indeed ludicrous. Is the number of boys who annually change schools so large that it has been deemed necessary to issue such an unlawful order for their benefit? And granting that a large number of boys annually migrate from one school to another, would it seriously inconvenience them if uniform sets of text-books were not adopted in all schools, considering that in every subject, except literature, the matter treated of was the same in the different text-books?

The correspondent says that Radhika Babu would have been to blame if the books written by himself, his son, and his son's or daughter's father-in-law, which he had adopted as text-books, had been worthless books. But why raise the question of the merits of the books at all? The books written by Mr. Nesfield and introduced by him in the schools under his control were not certainly unreadable books. Why then did the North-Western Provinces Government appoint a Commission to make enquiries as to whether Mr. Nesfield's books were really largely in use in the schools under him? The correspondent may deny, but it is a fact, that most of the books written by Radhika Babu or his relatives are somehow or other appointed as text-books every year. Some people are in the habit of saying that such and such a book by Radhika Babu has not its equal in the Bengali language. But who will

take the trouble of writing good school-books when there is no chance of their finding a market?

As for the correspondent's charge against us that we are constantly engaged in abusing Radhika Babu and the Hare Press, it need only be said that the contemplation of these subjects is not a means unto salvation, and we, therefore, devote very few of the three hundred and sixty-five days in the year to it. Radhika Babu and his friends and relatives must, of course, have their books printed in the Hare Press. But if Radhika Babu wanted to keep himself wholly above suspicion, as it was necessary for him to do, he should not have established the printing press at all.

Neither we ourselves nor anybody else ever said that books which are not printed in the Hare Press are never approved by the Text-book Committee, for every body knows that books printed in other presses are also approved. But there is a popular belief that every book printed in the Hare Press is approved. In order to prove that this belief is unfounded, it is necessary that a list should be published showing how many school-books have up to this time been printed in the Hare Press, and how many of them have been approved and how many rejected by the Text-book Committee. The comparative list given by the correspondent proves nothing, even if it is accepted as correct. In giving this list, the correspondent has not taken into account those books which have been approved by the Text-book Committee after the publication by it of its two lists referred to above. In conclusion, we would ask the correspondent to inform us how many books in Bengali literature, which have been appointed as text-books for the middle scholarship examination for the past few years, have been printed by the Hare Press, and if any of these books was at one time printed in some other presses, and came to be printed in the Hare Press only after its appointment as a text-book. Not to speak of the Samya Press and the Brahmo Mission Press, which are perfectly worthless establishments, is there no other printing press in Calcutta, except the Hare Press, which can print swiftly?

23. The *Som Prakash* of the 11th February says that whether in the selection of text-books or in the appointment of examiners, the authorities of the Calcutta University are guided by considerations other than those of merit. A man writes a good book, but if he

Selection of text-books and appointment of examiners by the University.

happens to have no friends among the members of the Board of Studies, his book has no chance of being adopted. And as regards the appointment of examiners, what can the University mean by excluding good men from the examinership? For the last few years the same men have been appointed head-examiners for the Entrance, and the same men have been appointed examiners for the B.A. examination, and what is the reason of this? Surely it cannot be said that they are the only men available for the purpose? Babu Rajendra Chandra Sastri has been excluded from the examinership for the last two years. For several years before that he set Sanskrit papers for the B.A. examination, and examined the answer papers of the candidates for that examination. And in both these capacities he discharged his duties in a satisfactory manner. The papers which he set for the B.A. examination really deserved the name of Sanskrit papers. The writer is aggrieved to see men like him excluded from the University examinership. Are not these things known to the authorities?

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 11th, 1895.

24. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 13th February says that the morning paper in English set at the Entrance examination contained some queer and childish questions, and there were too few questions in grammar and from

The English papers at the Entrance examination.

the poetical portion of the text-book. The Bengali passage given in the evening paper for translation into English was very wonderful Bengali. One fails to see what harm can be done by getting this paper set by a Bengali examiner. Dr. Macdonald, the Chief Examiner in English, is known to be a competent man, but probably his age is telling upon his faculties, and hence these anomalies in the question papers.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 13th, 1895.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

25. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 28th January does not approve of the proposal of the Barisal District Board to construct iron bridges over rivers in the district. As rivers there frequently

The Barisal District Board.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 28th, 1895.

change their beds and as *churs* are often formed in those beds, the construction of iron bridges will entail much useless expenditure. None of these proposed bridges can last more than five or six years. The Board should therefore spend their money in the construction of roads and the excavation of khals, wells, &c.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th February refers to the Lieutenant-Governor's Midnapore speech, and remarks as follows:—

Sir Charles Elliott on Local Self-Government.

In the course of this speech, His Honour has called himself 'a warm supporter of Local Self-Government in this country.' This was probably intended to remove the popular impression to the contrary. It is no doubt a matter for surprise that people had so long failed to recognise in His Honour their true friend. But then, if the Lieutenant-Governor is such a friend of Self-Government as he professes to be, why did he issue the Jury notification? Really popular rulers never go about saying that they are the true friends of the people, and people of their own accord present them with their heart's love. This was the case with Lord Ripon. On the other hand, the rulers who are incapable of winning popularity try to make out that they have the good of their subjects at heart. After having harassed and exasperated the people so long, Sir Charles Elliott, now that the time for his retirement is approaching, is anxious to earn the reputation of having been the "*ma bap*" and a well-wisher of his subjects. It was with this object that, in the course of his Midnapore speech, he publicly praised Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government policy. It seems that addresses of welcome, fireworks and the flattery of sycophants can no longer please His Honour, and as he has come to know the real value of such things, he is anxious to gain the reputation of being a well-wisher of his subjects.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

27. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 9th February says that owing to the small depth of water in the Tollygunge khal, boats with loads of more than 200

maunds cannot pass through it from the 6th to the 13th day of the moon. This stoppage of traffic for so many days proves a source of great loss to traders. This inconvenience can be removed by re-excavating the khal and providing it with a gate.

(h)—*General.*

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 28th, 1895.

The appointment of Special Rural Sub-Registrars in the district of Barisal.

28. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 28th January says that some fixed principle should be adopted in the matter of appointing Special Sub-Registrars from among Rural Sub-Registrars in the district of Barisal. The office of the Inspector-General of Registration should contain a list of Rural Sub-Registrars to guide it in the work of appointing Special Sub-Registrars on the principle either of seniority or merit. Care should also be taken not to appoint outsiders as Special Sub-Registrars when men eligible for the office can be had in the Department.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 6th, 1895.

29. The *Sahachar* of the 6th February is at a loss to see why, notwithstanding the good arrangements of the post office, things sent by book post are lost from time to time.

The writer recently sent an almanac to the address of Dr. Martin, Inspector of Schools in the Rajshahi Circle, but though the letter to the Doctor duly reached him, the almanac did not. The Postmaster-General's attention is drawn to the matter.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 5th, 1895.

30. The *Charu Mihir* of the 5th February thus reviews the Police Act Amendment Bill:—

The Police Act Amendment Bill. There is no reason to question the motive which has led Sir Antony MacDonnell to bring forward this measure. Nevertheless, some of its provisions, viz., those relative to the quartering of additional police, the amount of its cost, and the payment of compensation, are very objectionable. The Bill will, if passed into law, immensely increase the powers of the District Officers, whilst the safeguards proposed in it against any abuse of those powers do not appear to be adequate. It is said in the

Bill that the powers under the proposed law will not be exercised without the permission of the Divisional Commissioners. But as Divisional Commissioners ordinarily form their decision on the reports of the Magistrates, and as Magistrates are often, in consideration of the multifarious nature of their duties, obliged to rely on police reports, the chances of the authorities becoming aware of the true facts of a case are very small and remote. And, as a consequence, between the angry report of a police officer smarting under failure and the improper resolution of a hotheaded and inexperienced Magistrate, the people will be harassed and punished. Again, the object of the measure, which is to prevent breaches of the peace, will be gained only by the infliction of punishment. And in this respect the provisions of the proposed law are much more humiliating than those of section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The writer is not in favour of the quartering of additional police; and supposing the quartering of such police to be necessary in the interests of the public peace, the existing law on the subject should be sufficient. When the executive officers are able to find out the guilty, they can proceed against them under the section of the Criminal Procedure Code applicable to the case, and there will be no necessity for taking action under the proposed law. But when, in their inability to find out the guilty, they will set the new law in motion on mere suspicion, they will be out only defeating the intention of the law, but sowing the seeds of future trouble by exciting social jealousies. Whenever there will be a breach of the peace in any locality, the police and the executive authorities, irritated at their own inability to keep the peace, will take shelter under the law, and often punish the innocent on suspicion. All this will tend to increase discontent in the country. In justification of the Bill, Sir Antony has referred to an English Act and to section 25 of Act 4 of 1890 of the Bombay Legislature. As regards the English Act, its provisions relating to the award of compensation are, as is clear from the note on the subject submitted by the Hon'ble Justice Chandra Madhab Ghose and the Hon'ble Justice Gurudas Banerjee, different from those relating to the same subject in the proposed Bill. As regards the Bombay Act, the report on its working by the Secretary to the Bombay Government shows that its provisions are worked chiefly on the strength of police reports. Thus, when the new law will be passed, it will not be impossible for whole classes of people being punished on the sole strength of police reports. The provisions of the Bill have evoked opposition not only from native public bodies and the native press, but from many experienced officials, such as the Magistrate of Midnapore, the Chief Commissioner of the Nerbudda Division, and the Judge of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and it will not be proper to pass the Bill in the face of such opposition. If Government thinks it necessary to increase the powers of the Magistrate in the way proposed in the measure, it should at least give the persons who may be considered guilty by the authorities an opportunity to prove their innocence in a Civil or Criminal Court. It is hoped that a section to this effect will be added to the Bill.

31. The *Sahachar* of the 6th February has the following on the Merchant Shipping Bill:—

The Merchant Shipping Bill.

The object of the Bill is the very reverse of what appears from its wording. The lascars who serve on board merchant ships are now allotted six square feet of space per head on board, and the Bill proposes to double this allotment, making it equal to that granted to European sailors. Now, this proposal, notwithstanding its apparent reasonableness, will have the effect of excluding the lascars from English ships where they are now so largely employed, and the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair and Sir Charles Elliott deserve thanks for having clearly pointed this out in Council. The Hon'ble Mr. Playfair said that the space at present allotted to lascars was sufficient for them, and they had not themselves asked for more. And as in the opinion of many people, English sailors work more than the lascars, the allotment of the same amount of space to them as is given to the former will have the effect of inducing owners of English ships to employ English sailors in place of lascars. And then some 50 to 60 thousand Indians will be thrown out of employment. The Lieutenant-Governor has also protested against the measure, saying, among other things, that the Bill will, if passed, check the emigration of Indians in quest of service, which is found indispensable in the

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 6th, 1895.

present state of the country. The wire-pullers in England who induced the Secretary of State to force this Bill on the Indian Legislative Council no doubt counted for its success on the ground of the apparent reasonableness of the change proposed by it. But now that its harmful character has been pointed out, all India ought to protest against it.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1895.

32. The *Sudhakar* of the 8th February has the following:—

The Police Act Amendment Bill. We fail to understand how Mr. Mehta's remarks could by any means be construed into a reflection on the entire body of officials from the Viceroy downwards. What Mr. Mehta said is nothing but the truth. An experienced officer like Sir James Westland should not have been offended by the remark that mischief may arise from the vesting of the executive and judicial functions in one and the same officer. Mr. Mehta did not also bring any serious charge against the officials. He only said that in spite of a desire to do justice, many officials are led into error by prejudice or a determination to carry their point. Is this not a fact? To construe a man's remarks in the way Sir James did Mr. Mehta's is to make a mountain of a molehill, and to interfere with a free expression of opinion.

No matter what Mr. Mehta may have said and how Sir James may construe his remarks, the fact is that the Police Act Amendment Bill has alarmed the public. The object of the Bill is good, being nothing more than empowering Magistrates to appoint an additional police in localities where a breach of the peace is apprehended, and to levy the cost of such police from those who are suspected by him to meditate such breach of the peace. But how to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty? As the decisions of the Magistrates in this matter will not be appealable, many innocent persons will be punished, while many among the guilty will escape scot free.

Again, the provision in the Bill that passes for meetings and processions with music are to be taken from the Magistrate and not from the police will be productive of mischief. Already people are oppressed for infringing ever so slightly the conditions on which such passes are granted, and they will be still more oppressed when passes will be granted by the Magistrate himself.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

33. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th February has the following criticism written by a Government officer on the Land Records Maintenance Bill:—

The Land Records Maintenance Bill.

(1) The provision requiring even persons who may acquire a right in a holding by inheritance to register mutations will be felt as a serious grievance. Suppose a person acquires right in an ancestral holding paying an annual rent of four annas. We may well imagine such a person exclaiming—"Why should I pay a fee of Rs. 3, a sum that is equivalent to 12 years' rent, when none of my forefathers who preceded me in the occupation of this holding ever paid such a fee? Why should I also oil the hands of the registrar's clerks who, knowing as they do that I am liable to pay a fine in the event of the mutation not being registered, will throw every difficulty in the way of the registration?" This provision will also result in hardship, for the raiyats being, for the most part, illiterate people, will know nothing of this provision of the law, and will therefore incur the penalty provided in the Bill. After paying the road cess, the chaukidari tax and the salt tax, the raiyat has now hardly enough left for bare subsistence. And if he has to pay fines under the Bill he will have absolutely nothing left. Bengal has a population of 70 millions, of whom 11,300,000 may be reckoned as heads of families. Of these heads of families at least 250,000 will die every year, leaving behind them 500,000 heirs; and supposing each of these heirs to incur an expenditure of Rs. 5 for the registration of a mutation, this Bill will have the effect of compelling the people of Bengal to incur an additional expenditure of 25 lakhs of rupees every year. Under these circumstances, occupiers of holdings should be exempted from the obligation to register mutations.

(2) In addition to a first fine, section 16 of the Bill provides for the levy of a daily fine not exceeding Rs. 5 per day during all the time a person shall omit to apply for the registration of mutations after a date fixed by the Collector in a notice requiring him to apply for such registration. But what if the notice is not served? As a matter of fact, many road cess and certificate

notices are not served at present. For this reason in each case a notice is served by post in addition to a notice served by the peon. How will the notices under the proposed law be served?

(3) The Bill does not say in what proportion the costs incurred in making a survey and record of rights and a settlement of rents are to be paid by the zamindars and raiyats. It does not also afford the zamindars and raiyats any protection in case unreasonable expenditure is incurred on the above head. The cost of mapping and *chitta* should not ordinarily exceed one anna per *bigha*, and that of the *khatian* should not exceed two annas per *bigha*. But what if Government should spend 12 annas on those works instead of spending only three annas as it ought to? People fear that many charges like the Home charges may be included in these costs. The provision for the free grant of copies of *khatians* to raiyats on payment by them of their share of the cost of survey and the preparation of a record of rights is not bad, for in that way they will have to pay far less than if they were to ask for a copy thereof under the ordinary rules.

(4) Of the zamindar's share of the cost of survey and preparation of record of rights in any estate of his, he should not be required to pay in any year more than his net income from that estate, which may be roughly calculated as one-tenth of the Government revenue, and where that revenue is not separately fixed, as in the case of the mauzas in estates including many such, as one-sixteenth of the determined annual rental. To take more from them in any one year would be to involve them in debt and to ruin them.

(5) The fee for the registration of mutations in the case of holdings of any description should be fixed by law at four annas, and holdings paying an annual rent of less than one rupee should be exempted from the payment of this registration fee. Forms of application for mutation should be supplied free of cost at every post office.

(6) A clause should be added to section 14 providing that a separate account should be kept of the profit that is made by the grant of copies of survey maps and *khatians* from the Collectorate. For it is only just that the zamindars who will bear the entire cost of the preparation of such maps and *khatians* should get one-half of this profit.

34. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 11th February says that our Magistrates already exercise absolute sway on the native population. In one hand they hold the executive reins and in the other the judicial whip. In their exercise of the former power they can arrest any one and under their judicial power they can send him to jail. In fact, there is no escape for the person who incurs their anger. But not satisfied with this, Sir Antony MacDonnell desires to amend the Police Act in order to make the police and the Magistrates still more powerful. On the plea that the Bill will check crime and injustice to a certain extent, Government may pass it into law. But the amended law will ultimately lead to the commission of serious injustice by placing very large powers in the hands of the Magistrates, powers which the latter, as a matter of fact, long to possess.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 11th, 1895.

35. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th February says that, in consideration of the strong protest against the Police Act Amendment Bill, it behoves Sir Antony MacDonnell to withdraw the measure. If, however, he is unwilling to do so, he should accept Mr. Allen's suggestion that in the first instance a Deputy Magistrate should be sent to the disturbed locality to make enquiries and to call upon the residents to show cause why they should not bear the cost of an additional police in the village. The writer is glad to learn that the Indian Relief Society has submitted a memorial suggesting amendments in the Bill.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 11th, 1895.

36. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th February has the following about the Sanitary Drainage Bill:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 12th, 1895.

The Sanitary Drainage Bill. The writer has learned that the Sanitary Drainage Bill has been considerably modified on the lines suggested in the Lieutenant-Governor's Dacca speech. In its new form, it proposes to provide for the re-excavation of silted up rivers in Bengal, for malaria is supposed to be due to this silting up. Now, the correctness of this theory of the origin of malarial fevers has not yet been proved. It is seen in many places that though rivers

which used to flow there silted up long ago, outbreaks of malaria have been of a recent date. The Sarasvati in the district of Hooghly silted up 100 years ago, while malaria at first broke out on its banks only in 1862. That outbreak was due to obstruction of drainage caused by the railway embankment, which was constructed in 1854. Again, malaria in the Barasat subdivision is of a recent date, though the river Sunti, which used to flow there, silted up long ago. Rivers silt up through natural causes, and what happens in the natural course of things cannot cause sickness. There are none now living who saw the rivers Damodar, Kansai, &c., navigable all the year round, and yet malaria in the districts through which they flow broke out only the other day. It is the railway embankments and Government roads which have created malaria by obstructing the natural drainage of the country. The culverts on the road from Midnapore to Ulubaria, and on the road from Midnapore to Garbeta, are few in number, and as a consequence malaria reigns in places situated to the north-east of those roads. The writer has, however, no objection to the re-excavation of rivers and tanks for the purpose of supplying drinking water, and the Lieutenant-Governor will deserve the thanks of the public if he can remove the wants of the people in this respect.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1895.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th February says that though it is customary for the Viceroy to return the visits which are paid to him by independent Native Princes, His Excellency did not consider it worth his while to return the visit which was lately paid him by the Maharaja of Independent Tippera. This means that Government does not look upon the Maharaja of Independent Tippera as an independent prince, or as a prince, equal in position even to its meanest ally. But the Maharaja must thank himself for the insulting treatment he has received, for, at the advice of bad counsellors, he had Rai Umakanta Das removed from the premiership of his State, and has reduced himself to a meaner position than that of even a common zamindar. For instance, he has bound himself to attend at Comilla either personally or by a representative in the person of the Yubaraj or the Bara Thakur whenever the Commissioner will come there, and to submit to the Commissioner all such reports as he may call for. Is there not a courageous man in Agartala who can enable the Maharaja to rid himself of his bad counsellors? Dhananjay Thakur is known to be a well-wisher of the State and an able man; but is he, too, so much cowed as to stand looking on the State's decline in silence? All honour and *ijut* have vanished; the State alone remains; and will that, too, go? It will bode no good to the State until the coterie of the Maharaja's evil counsellors are expelled therefrom.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 17th, 24th, and
31st, 1895.

38. Mr. Khalil Ahamad, writing in the issues of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* for the 17th, 24th, and 31st January, says that there is another ceremony which requires the sacrifice of cows. It was celebrated by the ancient Hindus for four days immediately before or after the full moon in Phalgun or Chaitra. It appears from the *Asvalayana sutra* that the cow so slaughtered was intended for food; but the *Taittiriya Brahmana* strictly enjoins the eating of the flesh of the cow immolated.

In the *Rig Veda* there is a mention of the ceremony which is to be performed with beef. It is called the *Madhuparka*. The persons who could take a part in this feast were kings, bridegrooms, Vedic students on their return home after having prosecuted their study of the *Vedas*, *acharyas* coming to their home after a long absence, fathers-in-law, and generally men of high standing.

BHARAT MITRA
Feb. 7th, 1895.

39. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 7th February says that it is true that natives are getting some access to the Indian Civil Service through the door of competition, but it is a matter of regret that Government has completely excluded native youths from the higher military service. Many native youths.

officers will be found willing to send out their sons to England to get them admitted into the military colleges there, but the existing law stands in the way of the fulfilment of their desire. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, during his tenure of office in India, urged the Government of India to make some provision for the military education of the Indian youth. The Commander-in-Chief, too, promised that he would take the proposal into consideration, but, alas, the promise in a short time melted into thin air.

If, for any special reason, Government is diffident about opening a military school in India for the native youth, it should allow them entrance into the military colleges in England. Native military officers ought to memorialize the British Parliament on the subject.

40. The *Bangavasi* of the 9th February has the following:—

The Hindus not understood by Englishmen.

The Hindu's sovereign, whoever he may be, will have the Hindu's reverence and obtain from him such worship as is the sovereign's due. All

that the Hindu wants is peace and happiness and freedom in the practice of his social duties and religious rites. But this wish of the Hindu, modest as it is, is not fulfilled. By many acts of the English Government, intentional as well as unintentional, the Hindu's happiness is marred, his religious and social practices are interfered with, and he is grieved in his heart.

The Hindu cries in pain and blames the indiscretion, the inexperience, and the shortsightedness of the Governors and the officials. This cry does not mean ill-feeling against, or want of respect for, the sovereign and the officials, nor has the Hindu the least intention of abridging the authority of the latter. The only object of the Hindu in crying out is to point out the mistakes of the officials who they believe are doing wrong under erroneous notions. This is why they protest and cry out, and, in order to make their protest more effective, protest in a body.

This protest, this crying out, this combining makes the officials indignant. It makes them think and feel perversely. The lesson which they have learnt from their own history makes the English officials see in these protests and combinations a danger to authority similar to that which has been seen in England. The English people extorted the great charter of their liberties by besieging one of their kings in a field, got those liberties extended by beheading another king of theirs, secured still greater concessions by exiling the decapitated king's son, and have at last converted their king into a puppet. The history of England is the history of this coercion of the kings by their subjects. In England the sovereign does not rule the people, the people rule the sovereign. This lesson, handed down through ages from father to son, has created a deep impression in the minds of Englishmen that the function of the people is to control the king, and by long cherishing, this impression has come to have with them all the force of an incontrovertible truth. And then they judge of the Indian people by their own standard, and conclude that the Indian people are anxious like themselves to control the sovereign and the officials.

If the Indians had been a disloyal people, the Musalmans could not have ruled in India for more than seven hundred years, and the English too would not have been able to hold over this country the absolute sway they do. A few leading men indeed occasionally sought refuge with other princes when grievously oppressed by their own, but disaffection never went beyond that. A rebellion similar to any in England has never taken place in India. Nor have the Indian people ever beheaded a king of theirs like Englishmen.

In India there has been frequent warfare between princes. Indian soldiers always acknowledge him as their sovereign who leads them. Thus, led by Englishmen, Hindu and Musalman sepoys in India have fought against Hindu and Musalman princess. Hindu sepoys fought under English colours in the wars which the English Government waged against the Peshwa, the Holkar, and the Scindhia. And there must have been Musalman sepoys among those who fought against a Musalman prince at Arcot, and who fought against Tipoo and Hyder.

At the time of the Sepoy Mutiny, Englishmen thought that the Indian people were capable of rising against the sovereign like the English people, and that impression still seems to remain rooted in the minds of many Englishmen. But the Sepoy war was not a war between the sovereign and the subject,

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it was a mutiny against the English Government by its own paid troops, who imagined themselves grossly maltreated by their officers. The utmost that can be alleged against the people in general, is that a handful of them, led either by the enticements which were held out by the sepoys or by a deep sense of the wrong which they had suffered at the hands of the English Government, were foolish enough to join the ranks of the mutineers.

India is not the land where the spirit of rebellion can grow or thrive. The Indians have never received the teaching which make men rebels. Speaking of the sovereign, the Hindu *shastras* say:—"A great god is this in a human form." It is supreme folly to distrust the Hindu population of India.

But we cannot help concluding from the acts of the English Government that it has not yet learnt to trust the Indian people, that its mind is still full of distrust and suspicion. This is why it is increasing the strength of the army and the police, and making more and more rigorous laws. This is why it disregards justice in the administration of the laws, and has kept judicial authority subordinate to the executive authority. This is why it is increasing the already unlimited powers of the executive officers, and, not satisfied with conferring upon the Magistrates the unlimited powers of *nawabs* is now making *badshahs* of those *nawabs*.

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41. The same paper says:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on Indian manufactures. The Lieutenant-Governor observed the other day in the Supreme Legislative Council that there were clear signs of an increasing tendency on the part of the English public to introduce into India, veiled under a cloak of philanthropy, laws, the real object of which was to injure the Indian manufactures, but that it was the chief duty of the Government of India to improve those manufactures. Very sweet and soothing are these words of His Honour! But has His Honour tried for a single day during his five years' administration to give effect to what he has said? We are not to be deceived by words any more. We want deeds.

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42. Referring to Sir Charles Elliott's defence of official tours in the

Sir Charles Elliott's visit to Midnapore.

course of his reply to the municipal address at Midnapore, the *Sanjivani* of the 9th February says that the newspapers do not blame the officials for not doing what it is beyond human possibility to do. But is it not a fact that in the course of their tours, the officials do not generally meet people of the middle and poor classes, and never attempt to know their wants and grievances? Do not the police studiously keep the poor from approaching the Lieutenant-Governor when he is in the mufassal? Does not the Lieutenant-Governor himself tell the poor people who dare to approach him with petitions to affix to them eight anna stamps before presenting them? It is, no doubt, good for the officials to make tours in the mufassal, but such tours cannot but be looked upon as merely entailing a waste of public money, if the officials meet only a few rich people, and spend their time in listening to flattery and eating dinners. As for the Lieutenant-Governor, he meets in the mufassal only officials and zamindars who do not dare to let him know any unpleasant truths, and he is, therefore, left entirely in the dark as to the real condition of the people.

In connection with the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Midnapore, the local correspondent of this paper writes to say that within the last twenty or twenty-two years he has seen five Lieutenant-Governors visit the place, and has seen the masses *sa'aam* each Lieutenant-Governor with both their hands; but though Sir Charles Elliott went a distance of two miles lined with spectators, not a man *sa'aamed* him. This was not certainly owing to any preconcerted plan. Heaven alone can say what made the people abstain in a body from paying their respects to the Lieutenant-Governor.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVAMBRAD,
Jan. 2nd, 1895.

43. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 2nd January does not at all approve of the provisions of the Cotton Duties Act, 1894.

44. All the Native Papers of Orissa mourn the death of the Maharaja of Mysore in Calcutta, and sympathise with the Maharani in her bereavement.

The death of the Maharaja of Mysore mourned.

45. The bestowal of the title of K. C. I. E. on the Raja of Bamra in the Sambalpur district of the Central Provinces is appreciated by all the Native Papers of Orissa.

The Raja of Bamra, made K.C.I.E.

46. The *Utkaldipika* of the 12th January is sorry to learn, from its Jajpur correspondent, that there is a strike among the house-keepers of the sub-divisional town, because they have combined together to protest against the application of the Puri Lodging-Houses Act in that town, and, as a consequence of this strike, all travellers, suitors or pilgrims, who have any occasion to come there, are put to great inconvenience for want of rest-houses.

A strike among lodging house-keepers in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 12th, 1895.

ASSAM PAPERS.

47. The *Srihattavasi* for the first fortnight of *Magh* says that it has been quite improper for the Assam Government to impose upon a poor local body like the Sylhet Municipality the task of carrying out experiments in the excavation of artesian wells. If Government is so anxious to give effect to its hobby, it should spend money from the provincial exchequer, and not waste municipal funds while the rate-payers are suffering extremely for want of water, a grievance which can be easily removed by the excavation of a few tanks. The hobby is entirely Mr. Ward's; for be it said to the credit of Sir Charles Elliott in Bengal, that he is quite incapable of such impracticable fads.

In connection with the proposal to alter the limits of the wards of the Sylhet Municipality, the municipal authorities should take into consideration the advisability of apportioning the number of Commissioners among the different wards according to their respective populations, as the existing arrangement is most anomalous.

The writer advises the Municipality to make a suitable grant towards the cost of the proposed public hall in Sylhet.

SRIHATTAVASI,
First fortnight of
Magh.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th February 1895.

